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**MAYOR KISS TO VISIT MORE BURLINGTON BUSINESSES Nov 12**

*“Business Calls” Slated for Second Round in Burlington’s South End*

Burlington, VT – November 10, 2010. On Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Bob Kiss will again hit the streets of Burlington as part of the Mayor’s “Business Call” Program. Mayor Kiss will visit several dynamic companies Friday morning in his second round of visits to South End businesses.

Beginning at 9AM, the Mayor will meet with Scott Johnstone, Executive Director of the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, at their Vermont headquarters at 255 South Champlain Street.

From there Kiss will travel to Dealer.com, a high growth company that is currently expanding into space that formerly housed the fulfillment facility for Lake Champlain Chocolates. The Mayor will meet with Chief Operating Officer Mike Lane and President and Chief Technology Officer Rick Gibbs. The morning concludes at South End fixture Lake Champlain Chocolates, where founder/owner Jim Lampman will have a chance to discuss opportunities for further growth of LCC in the South End.

“Pine Street, Lake Street and Flynn Avenue are corridors for economic development in the City of Burlington. Creative economy and other small businesses linked to new and well-established light industry and offices clearly identify the South End of Burlington as a district of the City on the grow,” said Mayor Kiss. “Meeting with and hearing from businesses about the challenges they face and their successes is valuable. The business calls program provides an opportunity to meet with both new and established business owners on-site in Burlington’s neighborhoods.”

Mayor Kiss will visit each business using a hybrid car from CarShare Vermont, a Burlington-based non-profit vehicle-sharing program (<http://www.carsharevt.org/>). Currently 7 City departments and 38 employees are signed up with CarShare VT. City employees use CarShare Vermont for everything from moving art installations in CarShare VT’s pickup truck to traveling

in one of its fleet of hybrids to meetings around Vermont and out-of-state. The City's CarShare Vermont membership is grant-paid through the City's Energy and Efficiency Block Grant Program allocation. The goal of this pilot program is to provide employees with alternative modes of transportation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease congestion and parking pressures downtown, and potentially save the City money through the use of CarShare vehicles instead of reimbursement for private vehicle use.

The Business Calls are coordinated with the City's Community & Economic Development Office. As with past visits, Mayor Kiss will be accompanied by Bruce Seifer, Assistant Director for Economic Development with CEDO, and Jon Adams-Kollitz, Economic Development Specialist. For more information, please contact Jon Adams-Kollitz at 865-7187 or [jadamskollitz@ci.burlington.vt.us](mailto:jadamskollitz@ci.burlington.vt.us).